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TITLE: GLOVE FOR USE WHILE EATING

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DOC NO.: G476

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a glove. More particularly,
the invention relates to a glove that is worn by a person
while eating a quick meal, such that the glove not only
protects the wearer from soiling his hand, but also has
provisions for holding the food being eaten.

Eating "on the go" has becomes necessary for many people
whose busy schedules prohibit stopping for a meal. Such
people are forced to eat while walking, riding a bus, and
even driving. Because of the rushed nature of such meals,
messes are frequent and often disastrous. The resulting
crumbs, sauces and food dressings can easily soil not only
the hands of the person, but their clothes as well.

Commonly, the very people whose rushed schedule forces them to eat in this manner tend to be dressed in business attire.

Eating while driving creates its own special problems. When eating a fast food sandwich or the like, it is common to
5 take a bite, and then put the sandwich down. Common practice is to open the fast food wrapper on the passenger seat, and use the wrapper as a temporary dish. However, a sharp turn or rapid deceleration can easily leave the fast food sandwich on the floor, or even on the seat itself!

10 United States Patent No. 6,050,726 to Hoerl, discloses a glove bag, where a glove is attached to a bag, for allowing disposal of contaminated substances and the like. Hoerl is much too cumbersome to be used when eating on the go, and is particularly unsuitable for use while driving.

15 United States Patent No. 6,092,237 to Baldwin discloses a drip catching glove. In particular, Baldwin has a cuff which seeks to prevent liquids which run down the glove from reaching the arm. However, Baldwin is only suitable for catching liquids which run down the glove. Baldwin would not
20 catch falling sauces and dressings which drip from the sandwich but which do not run down the glove. Further Baldwin will not catch crumbs and falling food pieces.

While these units may be suitable for the particular purpose employed, or for general use, they would not be as
25 suitable for the purposes of the present invention as disclosed hereafter.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to produce a glove which facilitates easy and mess-free eating while on the go.

5 Accordingly, the glove extends over the hand of the user, and effectively protects the user's hand from becoming soiled.

It is another object of the invention to provide a glove which helps hold the food being eaten. Accordingly, the glove has a pocket proximal to the palm. The pocket allows a
10 food item to be held and only partially exposed at the pocket opening, while freeing the fingers for other tasks.

Accordingly, one could easily drive or perform other tasks while eating.

It is yet another object of the invention to provide a
15 glove which catches falling crumbs, sauces, and other food debris. Accordingly, in addition to the pocket, a rigid skirt may extend laterally outward from the wrist area of the glove, in order to catch substances that fall during eating.

The invention is a glove, for allowing convenient and
20 mess-free eating when on the go, comprising a wrist portion, a palm portion, and a plurality of fingers. A pocket is attached to the fingers and has a top opening within which a food item may be placed. A user dons the glove by placing one hand into the glove. A food item is placed within the
25 pocket and is partially exposed at the top opening of the pocket. The user may eat the food item while it remains in the pocket. After eating, the glove is grasped by the wrist

portion and turned inside out in order to envelope the remaining food item and food debris.

To the accomplishment of the above and related objects the invention may be embodied in the form illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Attention is called to the fact, however, that the drawings are illustrative only. Variations are contemplated as being part of the invention, limited only by the scope of the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings, like elements are depicted by like reference numerals. The drawings are briefly described as follows.

FIG 1 is a diagrammatic perspective view, illustrating the invention, per se.

FIG 2 is a diagrammatic perspective view, illustrating the invention in use, holding a food item - namely a hamburger bun.

FIG 3 diagrammatic perspective view, illustrating the invention in use, wherein a hand is extending within the glove.

FIG 4 is a diagrammatic perspective view, illustrating the glove being removed after eating, wherein the glove is grasped by the wrist portion and turned inside out - enveloping the remainder of the glove trapping any food debris therein.

FIG 5 is a diagrammatic perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the invention in use.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG 1 illustrates a glove 10, comprising a wrist portion 12, a palm portion 14, and a finger portion 16. The finger portion 16 includes five fingers 18, including a thumb, index finger, middle finger, ring finger, and pinky finger. The fingers 18 have finger tips 19, fully opposite from the wrist portion 12. The wrist portion 12, palm portion 14, and finger portion 16 define a continuous interior 17.

According to the present invention, a pocket 20 is attached to the glove 10 to provide a convenient holding location while eating. In particular, the pocket 20 has a front panel 20F, a rear panel 20R, a bottom seam 21, and a top opening 22. The rear panel 20R extends across the palm portion 14 and finger portion 16, with top opening 22 located near the fingertips 19, extending across several of the fingers 18 immediately below the fingertips 19. The bottom seam 21 extends across the palm portion 14. The rear panel 20R is attached to at least two of the fingers 18, and is preferably attached to the index, middle, and ring fingers, as illustrated.

In FIG 2, a food item 30, which is illustrated as a hamburger bun, is located within the pocket 20. The food item 30 is partially exposed at the top opening 22 with the remainder of the food item 30 being enclosed within the pocket 20. Accordingly, the food item 30 is securely

maintained within the pocket 20, but is instantly available to "take a bite" when desired.

In FIG 3, a back side 25 of the glove 10 is seen. In addition, a human hand 26 is fully extended into the glove 10 to the fingertips 19 of said glove 10.

Referring to the drawing figures in general, when food is within the pocket 20, it can be grasped by the hand as well. Accordingly, the pocket 20 provides two layers between the hand and the food item 30, and contains the food item 30, collecting crumbs and food debris, as only a small portion of the food item 30 needs to be exposed at the top opening 22 in order to "take a bite". Thus, when in the pocket 20, the food item is partially exposed, while the remainder of the food item remains within the pocket.

FIG 4 illustrates how, after the user finishes eating, the glove 10 is grasped by the wrist portion 12 and is removed from the hand by turning the glove inside out, enveloping the rest of the glove. While doing so, any food debris or mess present on the glove is engulfed by the glove, and may be disposed of with the glove.

FIG 5 illustrates an alternate embodiment of the glove, wherein a skirt 40 extends circumferentially around the wrist portion 12 below the pocket 20. The skirt 40 extends laterally outward therefrom. Further, the skirt 40 is most effective if it is rigid, made of cardboard or the like, so that it can extend laterally outward for a significant distance without collapsing under the weight of food debris.

The skirt 40 helps catch falling food debris while eating the food item 30. After eating, when the glove 10 is turned inside out for disposal, the skirt 40 is also engulfed therein.

5 In conclusion, herein is presented a glove which facilitates convenient and mess-free eating while on the go. The invention is illustrated by example within the accompanying drawings figures and in the foregoing description. Numerous variations are possible, while
10 adhering to the inventive concept. Such variations are contemplated as being a part of the present invention.